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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187596
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 187596

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOL RPT TEHRAN 7064 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON, PRETORIA, PARIS & USUN NY DTD 09 AUG 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 7064

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, PDEV,ENRG, IR
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO SHAH

REF: STATE 185990 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND I HAD JOINT AUDIENCE WITH SHAH AT RAMSAR MORNING AUGUST 9 TO DISCUSS RHODESIA. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE MADE SUCCINCT BUT DETAILED ORAL PRESENTATION OF TALKING POINTS, TO WHICH SHAH LISTENED ATTENTIVELY.

2. IN REPLY SHAH SAID WE COULD REPORT TO SECRETARIES
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VANCE AND OWEN THAT HE SUPPORTS THE UK-US PROPOSALS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE CONSIDERS THIS COURSE OF ACTION THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING, IF THE TWO SECRETARIES THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE, TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO BOTHA THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN.

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3. HE INDICATED THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD PROPOSED COMING TO TEHRAN, BUT THE SHAH HAD PUT HIM OFF. IF THE UK AND US THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP FOR HIM TO HAVE A PERSONAL INTERCESSION WITH VORSTER, HE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO REACTIVATE THE PROPOSALS FOR THAT VISIT.

4. SHAH AGREED THAT AN "INTERNAL" SOLUTION, WITH BLACK REPRESENTATIVES OF SMITH'S OWN CHOOSING, WOULD BE DOOMED BEFORE IT BEGAN BECAUSE IT WOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED BY WORLD OPINION. HE SEEMED TO HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT UK-UK-UN ABILITY TO KEEP THE GUERRILLAS UNDER CONTROL, BUT FELT THE EFFORT HAD TO BE MADE.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT WORLD-WIDE PRESSURE MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO BRING SOUTH AFRICA INTO LINE, THE SHAH SAID THAT HE FELT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THE FRENCH (AS ARMS SUPPLIERS) BE BROUGHT ALONG AND THAT SECRETARIES VANCE AND OWEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL BOTHA THAT FRANCE FULLY SUPPORTS THE UK-US EFFORT. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT PARIS WAS ABOARD. (FYI. I HAVE NO RPT NO CABLES INFORMING ME OF STATE OF PLAY WITH FRENCH OR OTHER "CLOSEST FRIENDS" AND WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING THEIR IDENTITY.)

6. FINALLY, SHAH RECONFIRMED IRANIAN WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A UN DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR RHODESIA AND,
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IF NECESSARY, TO TAKE WHITE REFUGEES INTO IRAN FOR RESETTLEMENT. HE SAID THEY COULD NOT BUY LAND HERE BUT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEASE IT FOR "SAY, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS." OTHER SKILLS COULD ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED AS IMMIGRANTS.

7. BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND I THANKED SHAH FOR HIS SUPPORT AND ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED OF OUTCOME AUGUST 12 MEETING. SHAH ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING RESULTS OF AUGUST 13 MEETING SCHEDULED WITH NYERERE, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER INDICATIONS OF NYERERE'S VIEWS GLEANED FROM HIS US VISIT.
SULLIVAN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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